

August 15, 2014

Weekly Views

The Indiana Women's Prison held its annual Rib Fest. Volunteers Benny Polin and Pam Bagby (pictured below) sponsored the program through GOSPEL PRAISE N THE PRISON (GPNP). The offender population and volunteers participated in a Rib-filled meal, followed a concert and two worship services including liturgical dance.

Two Rockville Correctional Facility (RCF) staff donated not just their time on a rainy weekend, but also their personal profits by donating all yard sale proceeds to the RCF Animals Depending On Prison Time (ADOPT) program. Virginia Pollard

and Sherrie McRoy, both Addiction Counselors-In-Training with Repucare and former RCF Correctional Officers, set up an area at the recent Town of Rockville Community Yard Sale and donated all of their proceeds to ADOPT. Both animal lovers and wanted to do something to assist in the program's success in any way they could. Rockville is proud of our dedicated and giving staff!



A Wabash Valley Correctional Facility (WVCF) offender written play, "A Matter of Time", received rave reviews! Under the direction of Dr. Jacquelyn Frank the "players" riveted their audience with their drama about life in prison. Their message, presented to offenders, staff, family members and the news media, was gripping. While many offenders going home are prepared and focused on living a life where drugs, hustling and crime do not play a role, others are not. "Actor" Miles Folsom said "A Matter of Time" comes down to never giving up, no matter what, no matter how far life pushes you. The cast of 12 worked nearly six months to write and rehearse for the production. (photo left)



Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility hosted a graduation ceremony for eleven graduates of the U.S. Department of Labor program. Each graduate was able to invite up to four family members to attend the ceremony, and more than 30 family members and friends attended this joyous occasion. Superintendent Kathy Griffin opened the ceremony with a speech acknowledging each offender's dedication to the program. "These men have worked very hard to complete their programs. This Department of Labor certificate is recognition of many hours of hard work and will be one more step towards their success in the community," stated Superintendent Griffin. After the graduation everyone enjoyed pizza and cupcakes.

The Organic Garden at the Indiana State Prison donated 309 pounds of food to three local charities. The charities were the Salvation Army, Sand Castle Shelter for Children and Families, and Stepping Stone Shelter for Women, all located in Michigan City. (photo right)

The vegetable garden is up and running again this year at Plainfield Correctional Facility. The facility offenders have worked hard and the first donations of the season have been delivered to Sheltering Wings. Over 19 pounds of cucumbers and zucchini were dropped off at the local community shelter in Hendricks County. A second load of tomatoes, beans, cucumbers, zucchini, squash, and peppers totaling 271 lbs were delivered this week. Last year, the facility donated over 8000 pounds of vegetables to Hendricks County programs. Sheltering Wings provides housing for women and children suffering from domestic violence as well as offering additional programs.



Pendleton Correctional Facility Superintendent Dushan Zatecky is pleased to announce the promotions of Shannon Schott from Secretary 3 to Administrative Secretary 2 and Michelle Rains from Secretary 3 to Administrative Assistant 2. Superintendent Zatecky stated, "We feel extremely fortunate to have both Shannon and Michelle as members of our team. Everyone at the facility wishes her the best as she pursues her new duties and responsibilities."

The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) wished farewell to several long-term employees who had over 204 years of combined service to the state. Officer Larry Foster – 39 years, Secretary Genia Juroff – 36 years, Mailroom worker Carleatta Wright – 34 years, Officer Doyle Nesbitt – 24 years, Maintenance Foreman Dewey Bennett – 22 years, Officer Robert Green – 21 years, Officer Robert Leatherman – 18 years and Chaplain Alan McCraine – 10 years. Cake, punch and snacks were served to staff, visitors and past retirees. Superintendent Wendy Knight commented, "I would like to wish everyone well on the next phase of their lives and thank you all for your years of dedicated service to the State of Indiana, CIF and the IDOC."



The August 2014 Community Advisory Board Meeting was a success at Putnamville Correctional Facility! Many local community members were present for the discussion involving the new House Bill 1006, new procedures critical with offenders in restricted housing, and some new reentry programs underway. The new mental health unit SNAP was discussed for the special needs offenders along with an emphasis on staff health Lunch was served by the facility's culinary arts program with an air of hospitality and highlighted the facility's 4000 pounds of garden product donated so far this year. Thank you to all who came out to better the local area!

PEN Products facilitated the Offender Workforce Development Specialists (OWDS) training at the Correctional Training Institute that culminated in the graduation of 31 participants earning their OWDS certificates. The certified graduates included IDOC staff, IDOC parole, community corrections, county probation, and PEN staff as well as staff from Department of Workforce and Work One offices.